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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

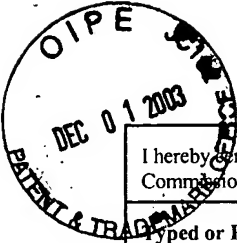
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

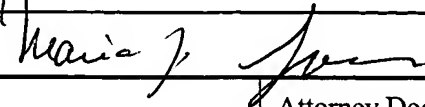
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/696,266	
	Filing Date	October 29, 2003	
	Confirmation Number	Unassigned	
	First Named Inventor	Benetti et al.	
	Group Art Unit	Unassigned	
	Examiner Name	Unassigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	14	Attorney Docket Number	GUID-005DIV6
<b>ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs.) <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Revocation, Power of Attorney Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Statement Under 37CFR 3.73(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):  <b>Postcard Forms PTO-1449 (11 pgs.) 12 References</b>	Remarks
<b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</b>			
Firm or Individual Name	ALAN W. CANNON, Reg. No. 34,977		
Signature			
Date	Nov 26, 2003		

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b>			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450			
Typed or printed name	Maria J. Sousa	Date	Nov 26, 2003
Signature			

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Typed or Printed Name		Maria J. Sousa	
Signature			Date Nov. 26, 2003
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  Address to:  BOX: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		Attorney Docket	GUID-005DIV6
		First Named Inventor	Benetti et al.
		Application Number	10/696,266
		Filing Date	October 29, 2003
		Group Art Unit	Unassigned
		Examiner Name	Unassigned
		Title	Surgical Instruments and Procedures for Stabilizing the Beating Heart During Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted for the Examiner's consideration.


A Form PTO-1449 listing the references accompany this paper. Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's initialing and returning the form to indicate that the references have been reviewed and made of record. Copies of the references identified herein which were disclosed in parent applications Serial No. 09/832,356, filed March 9, 2001, which is a Continuation of Serial No. 09/102,827, filed June 23, 1998, (now U.S. Patent No. 6,213,941); which is a Divisional of Serial No. 08/603,758, filed February 20, 1999, (now U.S. Patent No. 5,894,843). Copies of the U.S. references cited are not included herein, pursuant to the waiver of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.98(d).

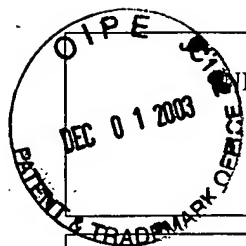
This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one of the above references constitutes prior art to the present application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102.

As applicants have not yet received a first Action on the merits, no fee is believed to be required for filing this Disclosure Statement. If, however, the PTO finds that for some reason a fee is due, our Deposit Account No. 50-2653, order No. GUID-005DIV6 may be charged therefor.

Date: Nov, 26, 2003

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Respectfully submitted,  
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By:   
Alan W. Cannon  
Registration No. 34,977



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**  
Form PTO-1449 (Modified)  
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ATTY. DOCKET NO.  
GUID-005DIV6

SERIAL NO.  
10/696,266

APPLICANT

Benetti et al.

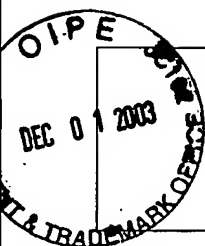
FILING DATE  
October 29, 2003

GROUP  
Unassigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A1	452,131	05/12/1891	Haughawout			
	A2	810,675	01/23/06	Richter			
	A3	1,706,500	03/26/29	Smith			
	A4	2,296,793	09/22/42	Kirschbaum			
	A5	2,590,527	03/25/52	Fluck			
	A6	2,693,795	11/09/54	Grieshaber			
	A7	2,863,444	12/09/58	Winsten			
	A8	3,392,722	07/16/68	Jorgensen			
	A9	3,683,926	08/15/72	Suzuki			
	A10	3,720,433	03/13/73	Rosfelder			
	A11	3,783,873	01/08/74	Jacobs			
	A12	3,858,926	01/07/75	Ottenhues			
	A13	3,882,855	05/13/75	Schulte et al.			
	A14	3,916,909	11/04/75	Kletschka et al.			
	A15	4,047,532	09/13/77	Phillips et al.			
	A16	4,048,987	09/20/77	Hurson			
	A17	4,049,000	09/20/77	Williams			
	A18	4,049,002	09/20/77	Kletschka et al.			
	A19	4,052,980	10/11/77	Grams et al			
	A20	4,226,228	10/07/80	Shin et al.			
	A21	4,230,119	10/28/80	Blum			
	A22	4,306,561	12/22/81	de Medinaceli			
	A23	4,350,160	09/21/82	Kolesov, et al.			
	A24	4,366,819	01/04/83	Kaster			
	A25	4,368,736	01/18/83	Kaster			
	A26	4,421,107	12/20/83	Estes et al.			
	A27	4,428,368	01/31/84	Torii			
	A28	4,434,791	03/06/84	Darnell			
	A29	4,461,284	07/24/84	Fackler			

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
<b>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not consider d. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</b>	



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	A30	4,492,229	01/08/85	Grunwald			
	A31	4,627,421	12/09/86	Symbas et al.			
	A32	4,646,747	03/03/87	Lundback			
	A33	4,688,570	07/25/87	Kramer et al.			
	A34	4,702,230	10/27/87	Pelta			
	A35	4,718,418	01/12/88	L'Esperance, Jr.			
	A36	4,726,358	02/23/88	Brady			
	A37	4,736,749	04/12/88	Lundback			
	A38	4,747,395	05/31/88	Brief			
	A39	4,754,746	07/05/88	Cox			
	A40	4,803,984	02/14/89	Narayanan et al.			
	A41	4,808,163	02/28/89	Laub			
	A42	4,829,985	05/16/89	Couetil			
	A43	4,852,552	08/01/89	Chaux			
	A44	4,854,318	08/08/89	Solem et al.			
	A45	4,858,552	8/22/89	Glatt et al.			
	A46	4,863,133	09/05/89	Bonnell			
	A47	4,865,019	09/12/89	Phillips			
	A48	4,884,559	12/05/89	Collins			
	A49	4,949,707	08/21/90	LeVahn et al.			
	A50	4,955,896	09/11/90	Freeman			
	A51	4,962,758	10/16/90	Lasner et al.			
	A52	4,971,037	11/02/90	Pelta			
	A53	4,989,587	02/05/91	Farley			
	A54	4,991,578	02/12/91	Cohen			
	A55	4,993,862	02/19/91	Pelta			
	A56	5,009,660	04/23/91	Clapham			
	A57	5,011,469	04/30/91	Buckberg et al.			
	A58	5,025,779	06/25/91	Bugge			

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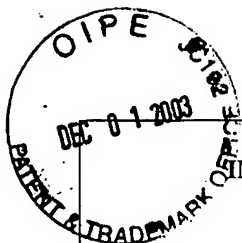


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ATTY. DOCKET NO. GUID-005DIV6	SERIAL NO. 10/696,266
APPLICANT Benetti et al.	
FILING DATE October 29, 2003	GROUP Unassigned

	A59	5,036,868	08/06/91	Berggren et al.			
	A60	5,037,428	08/06/91	Picha et al.			
	A61	5,052,373	10/01/91	Michelson			
	A62	5,053,041	10/01/91	Ansari et al.			
	A63	5,080,088	01/14/92	LeVahn			
	A64	5,119,804	06/09/92	Anstadt			
	A65	5,133,724	07/28/92	Wilson, Jr. et al.			
	A66	5,159,921	11/03/92	Hoover			
	A67	5,171,254	12/15/92	Sher			
	A68	Re/ 34,150	12/29/92	Santilli, deceased, et al.			
	A69	5,231,974	08/03/93	Giglio et al.			
	A70	5,287,861	02/22/94	Wilk			
	A71	5,300,087	04/05/94	Knoepfler			
	A72	5,318,013	06/07/94	Wilk			
	A73	5,336,252	08/09/94	Cohen			
	A74	5,382,756	01/17/95	Dagan			
	A75	5,417,709	05/23/95	Slater			
	A76	5,425,705	06/20/95	Evard et al.			
	A77	5,437,651	08/01/95	Todd et al.			
	A78	5,467,763	11/21/95	McMahon et al.			
	A79	5,498,256	03/12/96	Furnish			
	A80	5,503,617	04/02/96	Jako			
	A81	5,512,037	04/30/96	Russell et al.			
	A82	5,514,076	05/07/96	Ley			
	A83	5,520,610	05/28/96	Giglio et al.			
	A84	5,536,251	07/16/96	Evard et al.			
	A85	5,547,458	08/20/96	Ortiz et al.			

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APPLICANT Benetti et al.	
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	A86	5,569,274	10/29/96	Rapacki et al.			
	A87	5,571,215	11/05/96	Sterman et al.			
	A88	5,573,496	11/12/96	McPherson et al.			
	A89	5,607,421	03/04/97	Jeevanandam et al.			
	A90	5,607,446	03/04/97	Beehler et al.			
	A91	5,651,378	07/29/97	Matheny et al.			
	A92	5,667,480	09/16/97	Knight et al.			
	A93	5,713,951	02/03/98	Garrison et al.			
	A94	5,728,151	03/17/98	Garrison et al.			
	A95	5,730,757	03/24/98	Benetti et al.			
	A96	5,735,290	04/07/98	Sterman et al.			
	A97	5,755,660	05/26/98	Tyagi			
	A98	5,766,151	06/19/98	Valley et al.			
	A99	5,772,583	06/30/98	Wright et al.			
	A100	5,782,746	07/21/98	Wright			
	A101	5,795,291	08/18/98	Koros et al.			
	A102	5,797,960	08/25/98	Stevens et al.			
	A103	5,799,661	09/01/98	Boyd et al.			
	A104	5,807,243	09/15/98	Vierria et al.			
	A105	5,813,410	09/29/98	Levin			
	A106	5,836,311	11/17/98	Borst et al.			
	A107	5,846,187	12/08/98	Wells et al.			
	A108	5,846,193	12/08/98	Wright			
	A109	5,846,194	12/08/98	Wasson, et al.			
	A110	5,865,730	02/02/99	Fox et al.			
	A111	5,868,770	02/09/99	Rygaard			
	A112	5,875,782	03/02/99	Ferrari et al.			

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APPLICANT Benetti et al.	
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	A113	5,876,332	03/02/99	Looney			
	A114	5,879,291	03/09/99	Kolata et al.			
	A115	5,882,299	03/16/99	Rastegar et al.			
	A116	5,885,271	03/23/99	Hamilton et al.			
	A117	5,888,247	03/30/99	Benetti			
	A118	5,891,017	04/06/99	Swindle et al.			
	A119	5,894,843	04/20/99	Benetti et al.			
	A120	5,906,607	05/25/99	Taylor et al.			
	A121	5,908,382	06/01/99	Koros et al.			
	A122	5,913,876	06/22/99	Taylor et al.			
	A123	5,927,284	07/27/99	Borst et al.			
	A124	5,944,658	08/31/99	Koros et al.			
	A125	5,944,736	08/31/99	Taylor et al.			
	A126	5,947,125	09/07/99	Benetti			
	A127	5,947,896	09/07/99	Sherts et al.			
	A128	5,957,835	09/28/99	Anderson et al.			
	A129	5,967,972	10/19/99	Santilli et al.			
	A130	5,976,080	11/02/99	Farascioni			
	A131	5,976,171	11/02/99	Taylor			
	A132	5,984,865	11/16/99	Farley et al.			
	A133	5,984,867	11/16/99	Deckman et al.			
	A134	6,007,486	12/28/99	Hunt et al.			
	A135	6,010,531	01/04/00	Donlon et al.			
	A136	6,015,378	01/18/00	Borst et al.			
	A137	6,017,304	01/25/00	Vierra et al.			
	A138	6,019,722	02/01/00	Spence et al.			
	A139	6,027,476	02/22/00	Sterman et al.			

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A140	6,029,671	02/29/00	Stevens et al.			
A141	6,030,340	02/29/00	Maffei et al.			
A142	6,032,672	03/07/00	Taylor			
A143	6,033,362	03/07/00	Cohn			
A144	6,036,641	03/14/00	Taylor et al.			
A145	Des 421,803	03/21/00	Koros et al.			
A146	6,050,266	04/18/00	Benetti et al.			
A147	6,063,021	05/16/00	Hossain et al.			
A148	6,071,295	06/06/00	Takahashi			
A149	6,099,468	08/08/00	Santilli et al.			
A150	6,102,854	08/15/00	Carfier et al.			
A151	6,139,492	10/31/00	Vierra et al.			
A152	6,149,583	11/21/00	Vierra et al.			
A153	6,190,311	02/20/01	Glines et al.			
A154	6,213,941	04/10/01	Benetti et al.			
A155	6,315,717	11/13/01	Benetti et al.			
A156	6,346,077	02/12/02	Taylor et al.			
A157	6,350,229	02/26/02	Borst et al.			
A158	6,394,951	05/28/02	Taylor et al.			
A159	6,464,630	10/15/02	Borst et al.			
A160	6,478,029	11/12/02	Boyd et al.			
A161	6,482,151	11/19/02	Vierra et al.			
A162	6,494,211	12/17/02	Boyd et al.			
A163	6,537,212	03/25/03	Sherts, et al.			

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	B1	473,451	01/13/15	France				
	B2	168,216	09/01/21	Great Britain				
	B3	WO 87/04081	07/16/87	PCT				
	B4	0 293 760 A2	12/07/88	Europe				
	B5	0 293 760 A3	12/07/88	Europe				
	B6	0 293 760 B1	12/07/88	Europe				
	B7	DE 90 04513	06/28/90	Germany				
	B8	GB 2 233 561 A	01/16/91	United Kingdom				
	B9	WO 94/18881	09/01/94	PCT				
	B10	WO 95/01757	01/19/95	PCT				
	B11	WO 95/17127	06/29/95	PCT				
	B12	E 668 058A1	08/23/95	EPO				
	B13	WO 96/00033	01/04/96	PCT				
	B14	WO 97/26828	07/31/97	PCT				
	B15	WO 97/32514 A2	09/12/97	PCT				
	B16	WO 97/32514 A3	09/12/97	PCT				
	B17	EP 0 803 228 A1	10/29/97	EP				
	B18	WO 97/40752	11/06/97	PCT				
	B19	WO 98/27869	07/02/98	PCT				
	B20	WO 98/48703	11/05/98	PCT				
	B21	WO 98/49947	11/12/98	PCT				
	B22	WO 99/08585	02/25/99	PCT				
	B23	WO 99/09892	03/04/99	PCT				

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	B25	WO 00/06041	02/10/00	PCT				
	B26	WO 00/10466	03/02/00	PCT				
	B27	WO 00/16367	03/23/00	PCT				
	B28	EP 0 993 806 A2	04/19/00	EP				
	B29	WO 00/42920	07/27/00	PCT				
	B30	WO 00/42921	07/27/00	PCT				
	B31	WO 00/42935	07/27/00	PCT				
	B32	WO 00/42936	07/27/00	PCT				
	B33	WO 00/42937	07/27/00	PCT				

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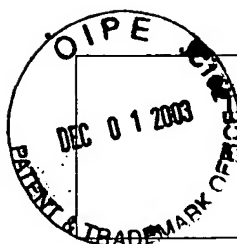
**OTHER ART** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

C1	Ancalmo, N. and J. L. Ochsner: "A Modified Sternal Retractor," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 21 (1976) 174
C2	Angelini, G.D., M.D., "Simple, Inexpensive Method of Heart Retraction During Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery," Ann. Thora. Surg 46:46-247, Aug 1988
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